Cost of production of one unit of Coal Mine in Nagpur

1257. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the cost of production of one unit of coal mines of the Western Coalfields Ltd. Nagpur ;

(b) how does it compare with the cost of production per unit in other Coalfields ;

(c) what is the element of administrative costs in the total cost of production ; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to reduce the cost of production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) According to information received from Coal India Limited (CIL) details of the cost of production of coal and Administrative Expenses included in the cost for various subsidiaries of CIL during 1992-93 were as follows :

Name of the Company	Cost of production (Rs. per tonne)	Admn. Exp. (Rs. per tonne)
1. Western Coalfields Ltd.	354.52	16.93
2. Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	597.90	28.17
3. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	499.06	30.54
4. Central Coalfields Ltd.	313.00	22.75
5. South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	255.46	12.17
6. Northern Coalfields Ltd.	239.37	6.42
7. Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd	148.65	8.81

(d) Steps taken to reduce cost of production of coal include the following :—

(i) Improved manpower planning, including redeployment of surplus workers and restricting the intake of new employees against vacancies caused by natural shortages.

(ii) Reduction in manpower through voluntary retirement scheme.

(iii) The concept of 'all men—all job' is being tried on an experimental basis.

(iv) Increase in production and productivity with special emphasis on *underground mines*.

(v) Improvement in the availability and utilisation of equipment by providing adequate workshop support, improved management of spares and timely rehabilitation of equipment.

(vi) A number of systems improvement and managerial measures have been adopted to improve efficiency of operations.

International Cooperation for Coal Industry

1258. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what are the new areas in which the Coal Industry is seeking international cooperation ;

(b) what is the state of participation of CIS countries in our Coal programme, in view of the fact that erstwhile USSR was associating with our Coal industry in many ways ;

(c) what sort of expertise is needed from foreign countries for our coal industries ; and

(d) when our coal industry is likely to be self sufficient in these areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Till recent past the policy of Coal India for seeking foreign collaboration was dictated by following two :

(a) Bringing in new technologies both in underground and opencast sectors.

(b) To seek bilateral funds for import of equipment which are not made in the country.

In view of the above, the areas in Underground sector where technology was brought in were longwall mining, shield mining, hydraulic mining, thick seam mining involving sub-level caving, Slasting Gallery for developed thick seams. Some import of technology was also done in shaft design, sinking and coal washeries.

In surface mining section, the areas for technology introduction have been in use of high capacity H.E.M.M. and to go for inpit crushing of coal/or lately emphasis is also on bringing foreign financial assistance to meet the investment requirement of Coal Sector.

(b) Following four major projects were taken up for implementation with assistance from erstwhile Soviet Union :

1. Khadia Opencast (NCL).
2. Nigahi Opencast (NCL).
3. Jhanjra Underground (ECL).
4. Modernisation of Patherdih Washery (BCCL).

The above projects are under implementation. The nature of assistance which was proposed to be given by the erstwhile Soviet Union was mainly in form of supply of equipment and rendering technical assistance during installation and operation of equipment. However, due to disintegration of Soviet Union, existing agreement could not be continued. The efforts are underway to establish cooperation with CIS countries.

(c) The foreign collaboration is mainly sought to acquire and absorb modern mining technology, procure sophisticated high capacity equipment, specialised management and training of personnel. The mining technology sought from foreign countries are given below :

(i) Longwall mining.

(ii) Blasting Gallery method.

(iii) Sub-level longwall caving.

(iv) Single lift longwall mining.

(v) Inpit crusher cum conveyor system.

(vi) Shield method of mining.

(vii) Shaft sinking.

(viii) Hydraulic method of mining.

(d) Technological modernisation in coal mining is a continuous process and for this purpose import of new technology, if required and not indigenously available, have to be obtained from other countries.

Unimpeded Access to American Financial Institutions

@ 1259. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India is likely to be targeted by US for possible sanctions if India does not allow unimpeded access to American financial institutions to set up operations ;

(b) if so, what was India's reaction thereto ;

(c) whether India has taken up the matter with US ; and

(d) if so, the reaction thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) The Super 301 provision of the US Trade Act which provided for the unilateral use of economic sanctions by the US Government for enforcement of US rights under trade agreements and for pursuing US economic interests in the areas of trade in goods and service including financial services, lapsed in 1990. A private number's bill to revive the Super 301 provision of the US Trade Act was introduced in the

@ Previously Unstarred Question 504, transferred from 7th December, 1993.